Application No.: 08/957,833
Filed: October 27, 1997
Group Art Unit: 2779

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 54-66 as follows:

54. (new) A storage medium on which a computer program for generating a mosaic image is stored, the mosaic image to have an appearance that approximates a target image by utilizing a plurality of source images, the computer program being operative to perform a method comprising the steps of:

loading the target image into a computer;

dividing the target image into a plurality of tile regions, each tile region representing a distinct locus of the target image, and

for each tile region:

dividing the tile region into distinct sub-regions;

comparing generally complex source images to the tile region to produce a measurement of visual similarity, said comparing step including comparing each sub-region of the tile region with a corresponding portion of each source image to produce the measurement of visual similarity;

selecting the source image with the highest measurement of visual similarity to represent the tile region; and

positioning the selected source image in the mosaic image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region.

55. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of

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employing source images having one pixel per respective sub-region.

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58. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein said comparing step includes the further step of computing a form of a Root-Mean Square error of Red, Green and Blue channels.

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57. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of removing source images selected in said selecting step from consideration such that no one source image appears more than once in the mosaic image.

D1 cont. 55 51
58. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the steps of capturing source images, and storing the captured source images in a database.

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59. (new) The storage medium of claim 58, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of generating modified source images by cropping the source images captured in said capturing step to square.

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60. (new) The storage medium of claim 59, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of, in the case of a captured source image in landscape format, cropping the captured image from center.

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61. (new) The storage medium of claim 60, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of, in the case of a captured source image in portrait format, cropping the captured image from above center.

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62. (new) The storage medium of claim 59, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of categorizing the captured source images within the database.

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63. (new) The storage medium of claim 59, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of storing the captured source images at different levels of resolution.

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D cont. 64. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of deselecting the source image with the highest measurement of visual similarity if it is determined that the source image has a higher measurement of visual similarity to another tile region.

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65. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of specifying at least one source image for inclusion in the mosaic image, the assured source image being positioned in the mosaic image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region having the highest measure of visual similarity therewith.

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66. (new) The storage medium of claim 54, wherein the method performed by the computer program further comprises the step of

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